

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Re Application of:)
Wilhelmus Joseph Leonardus Suyker)
And Paulus Thomas Wilhelmus Suyker) Group Art Unit: 3743
Serial No.: 09/708,617) Examiner: Kathryn Odland
Filed: November 9, 2000) Attorney Docket No.:
Title: PERMANENTLY DEFORMABLE) DVME-1005US
CONNECTOR FOR MECHANICALLY)
CONNECTING HOLLOW STRUCTURES))

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R.
§1.97(c)(3)

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

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Sir:

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Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.56 and 1.97(c)(3), Applicants bring to the attention of the Examiner the documents listed on the attached Substitute Form PTO 1449 (in duplicate). This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed with the Amendment and Response to Office Action. The fee in the amount of \$180.00 is enclosed herewith. The Commissioner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 50-0462 if any fee is due with respect to this filing. Moreover, please credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-0462.

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.8

I certify that this document, along with any document referred to as being attached, is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service on October 23, 2003 as first class mail under 37 C.F.R. §1.8 and is addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

Edna Schmittner
Name of person signing document

Edna Schmittner
Signature of person signing document

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner consider the listed

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documents and indicate that they were considered by making appropriate notations on the attached Substitute PTO 1449 form.

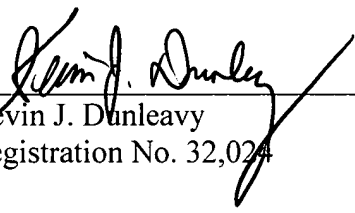
This submission does not represent that a search has been made or that no better art exists and does not constitute an admission that each or all of the listed documents are material or constitute "prior art". If the Examiner applies any of the documents as prior art against any claims in the application and Applicants determined that the cited documents do not constitute "prior art" under United States law, Applicants reserve the right to present to the Patent Office the relevant facts and law regarding the appropriate status of such documents.

Applicants further reserve the right to take appropriate action to establish the patentability of the disclosed invention over the listed documents, should one or more of the documents be applied against the claims of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

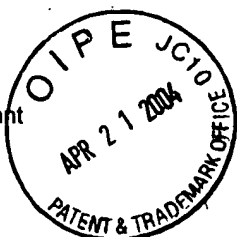
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Examiner Initial	Item No.	Document No.	Date	Name	Class	Subclass
	1US	1,251,258	Dec-17	Magill		
	2US	1,756,670	30-Apr	Treat		
	3US	1,918,890	Jul-93	Bacon		
	4US	2,434,030	Jan-48	Yeomans		
	5US	2,453,056	Nov-48	Zack		
	6US	2,707,783	May-55	Sullivan		
	7US	3,040,748	Jun-62	Klein, et al.		
	8US	3,080,564	Mar-63	Strekopitov et al.		
	9US	3,193,165	Jul-65	Akhalaya, et al.		
	10US	3,217,557	Nov-65	Martinot		
	11US	3,252,643	May-66	Strekopytov, et al.		
	12US	3,254,650	Jun-66	Collito		
	13US	3,254,651	Jun-66	Collito		
	14US	3,269,630	Aug-66	Fleicher		
	15US	3,388,847	Jun-68	Kasulin, et al.		
	16US	3,452,615	Jul-69	Gregory		
	17US	3,494,533	Feb-70	Green, et al.		
	18US	3,519,187	Jul-70	Kapitanov		
	19US	3,552,626	Jan-71	Astafiev, et al.		
	20US	3,570,497	Mar-71	Lemole		
	21US	3,589,589	Jun-71	Akopov		
	22US	3,593,903	Jul-71	Astafiev, et al.		
	23US	3,638,652	Feb-72	Kelley		
	24US	3,692,224	Sep-72	Astafiev, et al.		
	25US	3,774,615	Nov-73	Lim, et al.		
	26US	3,805,793	Apr-74	Wright		
	27US	3,908,662	Sep-75	Razgulov et al.		
	28US	4,076,162	Feb-78	Kapitanov et al.		
	29US	4,140,126	2/20/1979	Choudhury		
	30US	4,166,466	Sep-79	Jarvik		
	31US	4,233,981	11/18/1980	Schomacher		
	32US	4,304,236	Dec-81	Conta, et al.		
	33US	4,319,576	Mar-82	Rothfuss		
	34US	4,325,376	Apr-82	Klieman, et al.		
	35US	4,350,160	Sep-82	Koslesov, et al.		
	36US	4,352,358	Oct-82	Angelchik		
	37US	4,366,819	Jan-83	Kaster		
	38US	4,466,436	Aug-84	Lee		
	39US	4,523,592	Jun-85	Daniel		
	40US	4,553,542	Nov-85	Schenck, et al.		
	41US	4,573,468	Mar-86	Conta, et al.		
	42US	4,576,167	Mar-86	Noiles		
	43US	4,586,503	May-86	Kirsch, et al.		
	44US	4,592,354	May-86	Rothfuss		
	45US	4,593,693	Jun-86	Schenck		
	46US	4,603,693	Aug-86	Conta, et al.		
	47US	4,607,637	Aug-86	Berggren, et al.		

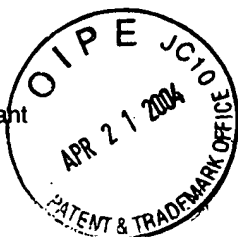
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	48US	4,624,255	Nov-86	Schenck, et al.		
	49US	4,624,257	Nov-86	Berggren, et al.		
	50US	4,646,745	Mar-87	Noiles		
	51US	4,657,019	Apr-87	Walsh, et al.		
	52US	4,665,906	May-87	Jervis		
	53US	4,703,887	Nov-87	Clanton, et al.		
	54US	4,747,407	May-98	Liu, et al.		
	55US	4,800,882	Jan-89	Gianturco		
	56US	4,907,591	Mar-90	Vasconcellos, et al.		
	57US	4,917,087	Apr-90	Walsh, et al.		
	58US	4,917,090	Apr-90	Berggren, et al.		
	59US	4,917,091	Apr-90	Berggren, et al.		
	60US	4,957,499	Sep-90	Lepstove, et al.		
	61US	5,064,435	11/12/1991	Porter		
	62US	5,102,417	Apr-92	Palmaz		
	63US	5,119,983	Jun-92	Green, et al.		
	64US	5,177,112	Jan-93	Horn		
	65US	5,188,638	2/23/1993	Tzakis		
	66US	5,197,649	Mar-93	Bessler, et al.		
	67US	5,234,456	Aug-93	Silvestrini		
	68US	5,242,457	Sep-93	Akopov, et al.		
	69US	5,250,058	10/5/1993	Miller et al.		
	70US	5,256,661	10/26/1993	Horn		
	71US	5,258,042	Nov-93	Mehta		
	72US	5,271,543	Dec-93	Grant, et al.		
	73US	5,292,053	Mar-94	Bilotti, et al.		
	74US	5,304,220	Apr-94	Maginot		
	75US	5,324,447	Jun-94	Lam, et al.		
	76US	5,330,503	Jul-94	Yoon		
	77US	5,333,773	Aug-94	Main, et al.		
	78US	5,336,233	Aug-94	Chen		
	79US	5,348,259	Sep-94	Blanco, et al.		
	80US	5,366,462	Nov-94	Kaster, et al.		
	81US	5,366,473	Nov-94	Winston, et al.		
	82US	5,395,030	Mar-95	Kuramoto et al.		
	83US	5,403,333	Apr-95	Kaster et al.		
	84US	5,456,714	10/10/1995	Owen		
	85US	5,478,354	Dec-95	Tovey, et al.		
	86US	5,489,295	2/6/1996	Piplani et al.		
	87US	5,522,834	Jun-96	Fonger, et al.		
	88US	5,549,619	Aug-96	Peters, et al.		
	89US	5,554,162	Sep-96	DeLange		
	90US	5,562,728	10/8/1996	Lazarus et al.		
	91US	5,620,452	Apr-97	Yoon		
	92US	5,634,936	Jun-97	Linden et al.		
	93US	5,709,335	Jan-98	Heck		
	94US	5,720,776	2/24/1998	Chuter et al.		

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Examiner Initial	Item No.	Document No.	Date	Name	Class	Subclass
	95US	5,732,872	3/31/1998	Bolduc		
	96US	5,755,775	5/26/1998	Treotola et al.		
	97US	5,755,777	5/26/1998	Chuter		
	98US	5,843,164	12/1/1998	Frantzen et al.		
	99US	5,843,170	12/1/1998	Ahn		
	100US	5,868,760	Feb-99	McGuckinns et al.		
	101US	5,879,380	Mar-99	Kalman et al.		
	102US	5,881,943	Mar-99	Heck et al.		
	103US	5,904,697	May-99	Gifford, III et al.		
	104US	5,906,607	May-99	Taylor et al.		
	105US	5,927,284	Jul-99	Borst et al.		
	106US	5,976,176	Nov-99	Webb, II		
	107US	6,015,378	Jan-00	Borst et al.		
	108US	6,019,722	Feb-00	Spence et al.		
	109US	6,032,672	Mar-00	Taylor		
	110US	6,051,007	Apr-00	Hogendijk et al.		
	111US	6,063,021	May-00	Hossain et al.		
	112US	6,071,235	Jun-00	Furnish et al.		
	113US	6,080,175	Jun-00	Hogendijk		
	114US	6,095,997	Aug-00	French et al.		
	115US	6,110,187	Aug-00	Donlon		
	116US	6,110,188	Aug-00	Narciso, Jr.		
	117US	6,113,588	Sep-00	Duhaylongsod et al.		
	118US	6,139,492	Oct-00	Vierra et al.		
	119US	6,152,937	Nov-00	Peterson et al.		
	120US	6,165,196	Dec-00	Stack et al.		
	121US	6,176,864	Jan-04	Chapman		
	122US	6,190,353	Feb-01	Makower et al.		
	123US	6,193,734	Feb-01	Bolduc et al.		
	124US	6,241,741	Jun-04	Duhaylongsod et al.		
	125US	6,616,675	Sep-03	Evard et al.		
	126US	6,702,829	Mar-04	Bachinski et al.		
	127US	D440,304 S	Apr-04	Morales		
	128US					
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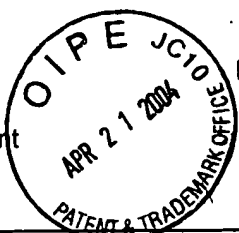
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Examiner Initial	Item No.	Foreign Patent Document No.	Date	Country	Translation (Yes/No)
	1F	0 119 688	Sep-84	EP	
	2F	137685	Apr-95	EP	
	3F	0 384 647	29/08/90	EP	
	4F	0419 660	3/4/1991	EP	Yes
	5F	0 637 454	2/8/1995	EP	
	6F	0 689 806	Jan-96	EP	
	7F	0 712 614	5/22/1996	EP	
	8F	1518083	12/2/1968	FR	Yes
	9F	935,490	9/19/1959	GB	
	10F	2108418	May-86	GB	
	11F	2038692	Jul-80	GB	
	12F	7711347	Apr-79	NL	
	13F	995765	Feb-83	SU	
	14F	1097301	Jun-84	SU	
	15F	96/10375	Apr-96	WO	
	16F	96/14808	5/23/1996	WO	
	17F	98/02099	1/22/1998	WO	
	18F	00/53104	9/14/2000	WO	
	19F	00/74579	12/14/2000	WO	
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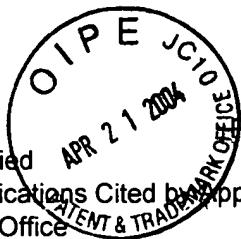
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Examiner Initial	Item No.	Other Documents (Including Author, Title, Date, Location and Pertinent Pages)
	10D	Androsov, "New Method of Surgical Treatment of Blood Vessel Lesions," Arch. Surg. 1956;73:262-265.
	20D	Berggren et al., "Clinical Experience with UNILINK 3M Precise Microvascular Anastomotic Device," Scand J Plast Reconstr Hand Surg, 1993;27:35-39.
	30D	CALAFIORE, A.M., "Early Clinical Experience With a New Sutureless Anastomotic Device for Proximal Anastomosis of the Saphenous Vein to the Aorta," The Journal of Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgery, Vol. 121, No. 5, pp. 854-8, May 2001.
	40D	Cooper et al., "Development of the Surgical Stapler with Emphasis on Vascular Anastomosis," NY Acad. Sci, 1963;25:365-377.
	50D	Eckstein, f.s., et al., "Sutureless Mechanical Anastomosis of a Saphenous Vein Graft to a Coronary Artery With a New Connector Device," The Lancet, pp. 931-2, Vol. 357, March 24, 2001.
	60D	Gentili et al., "A Technique for Rapid Non-suture Vascular Anastomosis," Can J Neuro Sci, 1987;14(1):92-95.
	70D	Goetz et al., "Internal Mammary-coronary Artery Anastomosis: A Nonsuture Method Employing Tantalum Rings," J Thorac Card Surg, 1961;41(3):378-386.
	80D	Gottlob et al., "Anastomoses of Small Arteries and Veins by Means of Bushings and Adhesive," J Card Surg, 1968;9:337-341.
	90D	Guyton et al., "A Mechanical Device for Sutureless Aorta-Saphenous Vein Anastomosis," Ann Thorac Surg, 1979;28:342-345.
	100D	Holt et al., "A New Method for Microvascular Anastomosis: Report of Experimental and Clinical Research," The American Surgeon, 1992;58(12):722-727.
	110D	Holt et al., "A New Technique for End-to-end Anastomosis of Small Arteries," Surg Forum, 1960;11:242.
	120D	Inokuchi, "A New Type of Vessel-suturing Apparatus," AMA Arch Surg, 1958;77:954-957.
	130D	Inokuchi, "Stapling Device for End-to-side Anastomosis of Blood Vessels," Arch Surg, 1961;82:27-31.
	140D	Kirsch et al., "A New Method for Microvascular Anastomosis: Report of Experimental and Clinical Research," American Surgeon, 1992;58:722-727.
	150D	Kirsh et al., "A New Technique for End-to-end Anastomosis of Small Arteries," Surgical Forum, 1960;11:242-243.
	160D	Lanzetta et al., "Long-term Results of 1 Millimeter Arterial Anastomosis Using the 3M Precise Microvascular Anastomotic System," Microsurgery, 1992;13:313-320.
	170D	Li et al., "End-to-side-anastomosis in the Dog Using the 3M Precise Microvascular Anastomotic System: A Comparative Study," J Reconstruct Microsurg, 1991;7(4):345-350.
	180D	Miller, "The Russian Stapling Device," Acad Sci, 1963;25:378-381.
	190D	Nakayama et al., "A Simple New Apparatus for Small Vessel Anastomosis (free autograft of the sigmoid included)," Surgery, 1962;52(6):918-931.
	200D	Narter et al., "An Experimental Method for Nonsuture Anastomosis of the Aorta," Surg Gyne & Obs, 1964;632-361.
	210D	Nazari et al., "Expandable Prosthesis for Sutureless Anastomosis in Thoracic Aorta Prosthetic Substitution," European Journal of Cardiothoracic Surgery, Vol. 10, No. 11, 1996, pp1003-1009.
	220D	Olearchyk, "Vasilii I. Kolesov--A Pioneer of Coronary Revascularization by Internal Mammary-coronary Artery Grafting," J Thorac Surg, 1988;96(1):13-18.
	230D	Ragnarsson et al., "Arterial End-to-side Anastomosis with the UNILINK System," Ann Plastic Surg, 1989;22(3):405-415.
	240D	Ragnarsson et al., "Microvenous End-to-side Anastomosis: An experimental Study Comparing the UNILINK System and Sutures," J Reconstruct Microsurg, 1989;5(3):217-224.
	250D	Rohman et al., Chapter IX--Cardiovascular Technique, "Double Coronary Artery-internal Mammary Artery Anastomoses, Tantalum Ring Technique," Surg Forum, 1960;11:263-243.
	260D	J. Rosch et al., "Modified Gianturco Expandable Wire Stents in Experimental and Clinical Use", Annals of Radiology, 1998, 31, 2, pp. 100-104.
	270D	Vogelfanger et al., "A Concept of Automation in Vascular Surgery: A Preliminary Report on a Mechanical Instrument for Arterial Anastomosis," Can J Surg, 1958;58:262-265.

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